Import of gas

4267. SHRIRAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline;

(b) if so, whether any date has been fixed for holding discussions amongst the participating countries to resolve issues pertaining to Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Projects as desired by the Parliament Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas in its 14th report;

(c) whether the Cabinet has so far accorded an "in principle" approval to the proposal for joining the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions on various important issues concerning the Project are underway amongst the participating countries. A Ministerial-level bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan has been held on April 25,2008 in Islamabad, wherein discussions were held on the pending bilateral issues concerning the Project.

(c) and (d) The Cabinet in the meeting held on 18th May 2006, accorded 'in principle' approval to the proposal for India joining the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Project.

Losses due to leakage/corrosion in pipelines

4268. MISS ANUSUIYAUIKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of loss of petroleum products due to leakage and corrosion in the pipelines carrying petroleum products;

(b) the details of the measures that are taken by the companies for prevention of leakage and corrosion;

(c) whether these measures are sufficient and latest ones;

(d) whether these measures require improvement and whether the prices of petroleum products can not be reduced by means of these improvements; and

(e) if so, whether the proposal for said improvements is being considered and by when the decision would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The loss of petroleum products due to leakage and corrosion in the pipeline carrying petroleum products is negligible.

Adequate measures are adopted by Oil Companies to prevent leakage and corrosion in the pipelines, such as:

- Periodic inspection & maintenance of pipeline and associated equipment.